

while sales of fish abroad fell slightly. As in the case of imports, the bulk of sales abroad was made up of fish exports. The foreign balance in the fisheries sector in 1991 showed an even greater deficit than in 1990, growing to 204.97 billion pesetas and increasing by 25.1% over 1990. The most important export species for 1991 Spanish exports were tuna (116,958 tonnes), octopus (41,997 tonnes), conserves (29,641 tonnes), squid (26,507 tonnes), mussels (18,724 tonnes), cod (16,218 tonnes), and hake (14,517 tonnes).

PROCESSING SECTOR

Spain possesses over 170 canneries with a production capacity of over 350,000 metric tons. Approximately 87 percent of fisheries products processed are of domestic origin, with the remainder comprising of largely skipjack and yellowfin tuna to accommodate excess demand in the domestic market. Employment in the domestic processing sector is over 35,000 permanent and non-permanent continuous jobs. Production has been broken down to estimates of oils (72 percent), marinated "escabeche" (18 percent), tomato and other types of sauces (6 percent), and water-packed (4 percent). Vertical integration in the Spanish processing sector is not extensive as only 9 canneries combine harvesting with processing.

The Spanish salt-water processing sector has a total output of over 240,000 metric tons from over 290,000 metric tons of raw material. The industry is comprised of approximately 250 factories with an estimated production capacity of 375,000 metric tons. Salt-water processing imports approximately 30 percent of frozen products, 32 percent of salted products, and 35 percent of smoked products. Rising profits are currently enjoyed by this sector. Major species processed by this industry include: 1) hake and similar species (34 percent); 2) whitefish (24 percent); 3) various preparations (19 percent); 4) squid fingers, short-fin squid (13 percent); 5) crustaceans (7 percent); 6) cephalopods (2 percent); and, 7) cod (1 percent).

AQUACULTURE

In recent years, the growth in the Spanish aquaculture industry has been rapid and notable for a wide variety of species, but aquaculture methods have become more selective. Major biological experiments have been carried out on improving farming methods for turbot, sole, common bass, bream, molluscs (especially mussels), and the industrial use of algae. Projects approved by the EEC and the Spanish government have represented over 2.7 billion Pesetas in investment and over 1.2 billion in grants. As more experience has been acquired with broodstock management, an increasing importance has been attached to improving storage and feeding conditions. Based on recent developments, opportunities appear to exist for Canadian aquaculture feed exporters. Production in fish ponds and hatcheries showed a drop of 25.4% in real terms for 1991 which followed declines over the previous two years. However, there was an average increase in prices of 15% which helped to alleviate the effect of decreased volumes in this sub-sector of the Spanish domestic fishery.